



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Stephen J. Murphy  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan**

*Suite 2001  
211 West Fort Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277  
Fax: (313) 226-3561*

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact:** Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Feb 15, 2007

---

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY STEPHEN J. MURPHY ANNOUNCES  
PLANS TO HOST 2007 WEED AND SEED NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

---

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy is pleased to announce that Detroit has been selected as the site of the 2007 National Weed and Seed Conference. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Center/Marriott Hotel complex August 20, 2007 through August 24, 2007.

Weed and Seed is a U.S. Department of Justice program that brings together diverse representatives from local government, community leaders, community service providers and residents to form a program aimed at deterring crime, promoting economic growth and enhancing quality of life.

Upon application by United States Attorney Murphy's office, Detroit was chosen as the conference site by the Director of the Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) of the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. Several factors were considered in selecting the site, including assistance from the local Weed and Seed sites, commitment from the local United States Attorney's Office, support of the host city, as well as the hotel and meeting space package available. After reviewing several other submissions by United States

Attorney's Offices from across the nation, CCDO selected Detroit for having the most impressive overall package.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "I am thrilled that Detroit has been selected as the site of the 2007 Weed and Seed national conference. This important event will bring Weed and Seed participants from across the nation to our great city. Beyond serving to boost the local economy, the gathering will allow us to showcase some of the excellent work being done by our office and by our local partners at the six southeast Michigan Weed and Seed sites – all of which are doing terrific work in cleaning up neighborhoods and reducing violent crime."

The conference is held for participants from the numerous different Weed and Seed sites throughout the United States and it will afford participants an opportunity to engage in a variety of group exercises and hands-on-training. The conference will likely bring more than 1600 visitors and countless tourist dollars to Detroit.

CCDO is an agency within the Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. The mission of CCDO is to help communities help themselves, enabling them to develop solutions to public safety problems and to strengthen leadership to implement and sustain those solutions. This mission is carried out by means of the National Weed and Seed Program.

Since the inception of Operation Weed and Seed in 1991, the CCDO has designated more than 300 communities as Weed and Seed sites, including six in southeast Michigan: Inkster, Flint East, Highland Park, northwest Detroit, northeast Detroit and Flint Westside.

The highly effective Weed and Seed initiative is the flagship program of CCDO.

Weed and Seed is an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

Four fundamental principles underlie the Weed and Seed strategy:

- ★ COLLABORATION - among agencies and residents
- ★ COORDINATION - of resources

- ★ COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION - residential participation from those that live in the site area
- ★ AND LEVERAGING RESOURCES - utilizing exist resources to develop a strategy and network these services to better serve the community.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Michigan is home to Six Officially Recognized Weed and Seed sites that each receive the benefit of a one million dollar grant to assist these sites to target high crime, prison re-entry and community revitalization.

The United States Attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan is comprised of almost 100 attorneys and a similar number of support professionals dedicated to representing the interests of the United States in a 34 county region populated by approximately 6.7 million residents. The office is led by United States Attorney Stephen Murphy, who was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate on June 8, 2005.

For more information on CCDO, please visit their website at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/nonflash.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/nonflash.html)